

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 4, 1978

The regular meeting of County Council was called to order by Chairman Phinney, with invocation by Walhalla Mayor Bob Gaillard. Councilmen Bailes and Herring were absent.

Motion by Mr. Crain seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried to approve minutes of the March 21st meeting as printed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 in order to conduct a public hearing on Supplemental Budget Ordinance 78-3, as required by the Home Rule Law. Only one citizen (Mr. Ginn) was present. Mr. Ginn expressed concern that the County was providing funds (county revenue sharing and federal revenue sharing) with the towns. He felt that the funds should be applied to projects that would benefit the rural areas. He especially mentioned increasing the size of the water mains from two to six inches into the rural areas in order that the citizens would have better fire protection. Although a public hearing is not required when 25% or less of federal revenue sharing funds are reallocated, the discussion entered principally on this matter. The Council agreed to receive and consider any ideas or future projects from Mr. Ginn that would assist rural areas.

After the meeting was called back to order, Budget Director Richard Lay briefed Council on the expenditures from the contingency account showing the reimbursable and non reimbursable. Mr. Thomas then moved to adopt Ordinance 78-3 on Third and final reading. Mr. Moore seconded and it was passed. The vote 6 Yes and 0 No.

Ordinance 78-4 "Dog Control Ordinance" was read and passed on Second Reading. Motion by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Moore. The vote 6 Yes and 0 No.

Motion by Mr. Crain seconded by Mr. Frady and carried to adopt Resolution 78-3 declaring May 9, 1978 as the date for the election to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Hercial Moore.

PRT Commission Chairman John Little requested a salary adjustment for Recreation Director Ben Sullivan. When he was hired last April, it was agreed he would be furnished a house within a year, however the residence at South Cove Park has not been completed. Mr. Ables moved to pay Mr. Sullivan on a pro rata basis a rental allowance of \$150 per month beginning April 1, 1978 and continued until the house is completed (this to be included in next years budget). Mr. Crain seconded the Motion which was passed.

Mr. Ables moved to proceed with the Putt Putt at High Falls Park. The cost for this project is \$14,000 one half of which will be reimbursed by BOR funds - payment to be made after July 1. Mr. Thomas seconded and all votes were in favor.

Ordinance 78-5 "To Reopen Tax Rolls for Application for Residential and Agricultural Assessment Rate until June 1, 1978" was passed on First Reading. Motion by Mr. Crain, seconded by Mr. Ables - The vote 6 yes 0 No.

Resolution 78-4 Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Assistance Agreement between Oconee County and TRW, Inc. was adopted. Motion by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Thomas. The vote 6 Yes and 0 No.

The Aeronautics Commission presented to Council their contract with the new base fixed operator at the airport. Mr. Ables suggested Council-Members be furnished copies of the contract for study until the next meeting, and he so moved. Also included in his motion was the approval of the request of \$930 for salary for the temporary operator for the month of April. Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Virginia Sibley, County Comptroller, briefed Council on the duties and activities of her office.

County Attorney Jerry Fedder requested Council's approval to present four items not on the agenda - it was agreed.

Ordinance 78-6 Providing for Temporary Borrowing Pursuant to Act 116 of Acts Of 1965, as amended, in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds by Oconee County (FHA SEWER), S.C. - South Carolina Bank was the low bidder for intriem financing for this project and agreed to lend the County the sum of \$3,950 to mature one year from the date thereof, with interest thereon at the rate of 5% per annum, payable at maturity. Mr. Crain moved to adopt this Ordinance on 1st Reading Mr. Thomas seconded and the vote was 6 Yes and 0 No.

County Attorney told Council a Member of the Administrative Staff should be appointed to counter sign checks with the Sewer Commission. Mr. Thomas recommended Richard Lay be appointed, Mr. Cox seconded and all votes were in favor.

Mr. Ables moved, Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried to comply with the request of the Sewer Commission to create the position of Manager of the Sewer Project. 75% of the salary for this position is to be funded by EPA.

Council agreed to front \$30,580.32 for bills in connection with the Sewer Project (Piedmont Engineers 26,940.32 and Arthur Young Co. 3,640.00) plus \$22,726.80 for the first installment payment for waste treatment plant. Mr. Ables made the motion Mr. Frady seconded and it was passed unanimously.

A letter from Supt. of Education Hamilton requesting \$134,980.31 to be transferred from capital improvements to school district acct. was accepted as information.

Mr. Ables referred to a letter dated 30 March 1978 that Supt. of Education Fred Hamilton had sent to all School Personnel of Oconee County Schools. Mr. Ables stated that in his opinion the contents of the letter placed the blame on County Council of not providing sufficient funds for the School's Operating Budget for the current budget year. He stated that he felt sufficient funds had been provided to the school system and that it was time for the school personnel and citizens of Oconee County to be advised of what the County Council had provided to the schools. He said that he had received numerous comments from the citizens in his district and that he proposed to send a letter to all school personnel concerning the budget and invited other Members of Council to join him if they wished. The matter was discussed between the Members of Council and all agreed to support Mr. Ables' position. Motion was made by Mr. Ables seconded by Mr. Thomas and voted on unanimously to forward the letter to school personnel.

Mr. Thomas moved to approve an additional \$800 to the Sheriff's

out of county travel acct. and to authorize the Purchasing Director to order uniforms with the understanding they would be paid for in next year's budget. Mr. Cox seconded the motion and stated he felt since the Correctional Officers were furnished shoes, he felt Deputies should be too. He then seconded Mr. Thomas' motion and it was agreed. The request for shoes was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Thomas moved to fund an additional \$1800 to the Coroners acct. for post mortem examinations. Mr. Moore seconded and it was approved.

A motion by Mr. Moore to fund an additional \$685 for pauper funerals \$300 additional for the telephone account and an additional \$450 for Welfare Board Members (due to an oversight their last two quarters of last fiscal year had to be paid out of the current budget). Mr. Thomas seconded and it was approved.

When former Deputy Douglas Marrett left the Sheriff's Dept. to go with the Highway Patrol, he was due to be paid for 10 holidays. Mr. Cox moved Mr. Frady seconded and it was agreed to pay Mr. Marret for the days due him.

Council proclaimed the week of April 16-22 as "Spring Clean UP Week" upon a motion by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried.

It was agreed by Council that Building Inspector James LeCroy approve and sign bills for hospital construction.

Personnel Director Roy Strickland's request for a leave of absence from May 16 to June 7 and vacation June 8-14 was approved upon a motion by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried. Council agreed with Mr. Cox's suggestion that Mrs. Stutts be acting Personnel Director in Mr. Strickland's absence.

It was agreed to go into executive session to discuss personnel, however no formal action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30